

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/826,867

Examiner

Amy J. Sterling

Applicant(s)

COLMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-9, 11-15 and 19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 4/11/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Notice of Allowance***

This is the Notice of Allowance for application number 10/826,867 Extendable Retractable Support Column, filed on 4/16/04. Claims 2-9, 11-15 and 19 are allowed.

***Election/Restrictions***

Claim 2 is allowable. The restriction requirement, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 2/9/06, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims to the elected invention pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a). **The restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.** Claims 7-9, directed to species no longer withdrawn from consideration because the claim(s) requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 4/11/07 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regards to claim 2, the prior art does not teach a linear drive mechanism engaging each linked section, the linear drive mechanism operable to extend and retract the linked section which it engages so that the tabs of each individual section of a linked section engage and disengage, respectively, tabs of individual sections of the adjacent linked sections.

With regards to claims 11 and 19, the prior art does not teach an outer ring positioned about the linked sections, the outer ring including a roller configured to engage each of the linked sections as the connection tab section engages the tab receiving surface of an individual section of the second adjacent linked section.

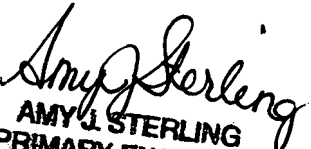
With regards to claim 12, the reason is that the prior art does not show at least three linked sections adjacent to one another with a plurality of drive slots in at least one of the linked sections and a linear drive member rotatable about an axis generally parallel to the column, the drive member being a power screw configured to engage drive slots, wherein the rotation of the power screw extends or retracts at least one of the linked sections, which disengage from each other when retracted.

Art Unit: 3632

**Conclusion**

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance." Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The fax machine number for the -Technology center is 571-273-8300 (formal amendments) or 571-273-6823 (informal amendments/communications). Any inquiry of a general - nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 571-272-3600.

Amy J. Sterling  
Primary Examiner  
4/16/07

  
AMY J. STERLING  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600